

BILL # HB 2036

SPONSOR: Thrasher

PREPARED BY: Art Smith

TITLE: state hospital employees; disease testing

STATUS: As Introduced

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Description

The bill amends statute to allow Arizona State Hospital (ASH) employees to petition the court for an order authorizing testing of an individual, living or deceased, for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), common blood borne diseases or other diseases specified in the petition if there are reasonable grounds to believe an exposure occurred as a result of an instance of violence by a patient against an employee.

Estimated Impact

The bill has an estimated General Fund cost of \$4,300 in FY 2009, based on the number of incidences in FY 2007. The current average daily census of 270 patients at ASH is the same as it was in FY 2007.

Analysis

Current statute specifies that a public safety employee or volunteer may petition the court for an order authorizing testing of an individual, living or deceased, for HIV, common blood borne disease or other diseases specified in the petition if there are reasonable grounds to believe exposure had occurred in the execution of the official duties. The bill would amend statute to include ASH employees.

ASH currently contracts with Maricopa Integrated Health Systems to conduct tests on Hospital patients and would continue to do so under the bill. If an incident involving biting, scratching or spitting should occur, employees could petition for patients to be tested for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and syphilis. In FY 2007, there were a total of 45 incidences where employees were exposed to bodily fluids from a Hospital patient. HIV tests are currently voluntary. However, ASH estimates that under the bill, the rise in preliminary HIV screenings would result in 4 HIV confirmation tests per year. Testing for all the diseases mentioned, including the HIV confirmation tests, would cost Department of Health Services \$4,300.

Local Government Impact

None

1/23/08